

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 04200 311832Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
PA-02 SP-02 HA-05 MCT-02 /036 W  
-----049059 311847Z /44  
P R 311303Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1423  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 4200

FOR: PGM/RC; VOA/PL; PGM/PP

STATE FOR ARA/CEN

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

1. TEGUCIGALPA. COVERAGE AND COMMENTARY IN THE AUGUST 31 EDITIONS  
OR  
ALL THREE MAJOR HONDURAN DAILIES ILLUSTRATE SERIOUS CONCERN  
FOR NICARAGUA SITUATION. ALL FRONT-PAGE PHOTOS OF BLOODSHED IN  
MATAGALPA WITH HEADLINES RANGING FROM NEUTRAL TO TIEMPO'S PARTISAN  
TRIPLE BANNER: "POPULAR COURAGE RESISTS DICTATORS VIOLENT ATTACK."
2. LA TRIOUNA AND LA PRENSA DEVOTE LEAD EDITS TO NICARAGUA WHILE  
TIEMPO CARRIES LARGE CARTOON ON EDITORIAL PAGE SHOWING SOMOZA  
HANGING BY A ROPE WHICH IS BEING CUT BY THE FSLN AND PLEADING  
"SAM, THIS IS GETTING SERIOUS."
3. LA PRENSA'S EDIT ENTITLED "IS MATAGALPA BURNING?" DRAWS THE  
ANALOGY BETWEEN SOMOZA AND HITLER, CONCLUDING THAT, "THE HEINOUS  
ORDER (TO BURN PARIS) HAS BEEN HEARD AGAIN, AND THIS TIME UNFOR-  
TUNATELY FOR US, IN A CENTRAL AMERICAN NATION. THE CIVILIAN POPU-  
LATION OF MATAGALPA HAS BEEN BOMBED FROM THE AIR WITH ROCKETS AND  
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FROM THE GROUND WITH ARTILLERY SURELY THERE HAVE BEEN MANY CASUAL-  
TIES AMONG ITS MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN."

4. LA PRENSA CONCLUDES: "AND IT IS ALSO CONJECTURABLE THAT IN THE  
"BUNKER" AT MIRAMAR THE QUESTION, "IS MATAGALPA BURNING?" CAN BE  
HEARD. THEY SAY THAT THE SOMOZA DYNASTY IS DYING SLOWLY. WE HOPE  
THAT IN ITS DEATH THROES IT DOESN'T CRY OUT WITH A RASPY VOICE

ASKING THE QUESTION, "IS MANAGUA BURNING?"

5. LA TRIBUNA'S LEAD EDIT IS LESS DRAMATIC. IT COMPARES THAR  
SANDINV

TAS WITH CASTRO WHO POSED AS A DEMOCRATIC NATIONALIST.

"WHAT IDEOLOGY SUSTAINS THE GUERILLAS IN THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRY?,

"THIS GROUP WHICH NOW HAS THE BACKING OF INDUSTRIALISTS AND  
BUSINESSMEN AS WELL AS INTELLECTUALS AND PROFESSIONALS.

6. "NATIONALISM, TO US, "CONTINUES LA TRIBUNA, "IS JUST, RESPONDING  
TO THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL NECESSITY OF THE PRESENT. COMMUNISM IS  
NOT NATIONALISTIC IN THAT IT IS GUIDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL PRO-  
LETARIAT IN ITS POLITICS AND IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MATTERS BY  
THE SUPPRESSION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY AND THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION.  
IF THE GUREILLAS ARE SUCCESSFUL IN OVERTHROWING SOMOZA, WHO WILL

ASSUME POWER. ARE COMMANDER ZERO AND THE OTHER GUERILLAS CHIEFS  
DISPOSED TO LET OTHERS GOVERN WHO ARE NOT FOLLOWERS OF SOMOZA BUT  
ARE NOT SANDINISTAS EITHER? WE SEE THEN HOW COMPLICATED THE  
SITUATION IN NICARAGUA IS. COMPLICATED WE SAY BECAUSE THE FALL OF  
SOMOZA WILL NOT GUARANTEE PEACE IN THAT NATION."

7. LA TRIBUNA (AUGUST 31) ALSO CARRIES THE AUGUST 22 FSLN  
COMMUNIQUE TO THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA ON PAGES 11 AND 12 (FULL  
PAGES).

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, CIVIL DISORDERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Review Event:**  
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**TAGS:** SOPN, PINS, HO, NU  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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